

42261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :  
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Masao SOMEYA et al. :  
: :  
Serial No.: *not yet received* :  
: :  
Filed: *herewith* :  
: :  
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ALIGNED :  
CARBON NANOTUBE FILMS :

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 13, 18 and 20-28 as follows.

13. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is a ceramic sheet.

18. (Amended) The process according to claim 16, wherein the base is ammonia or a water-soluble amine.

20. (Amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the cobalt compound which is loaded on the aluminum-coated ceramic sheet comprises particles with a size of 1 nm to 100 nm.

21. (Amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the cobalt compound is loaded by impregnation, dipping, a sol-gel process or a reverse micelle process.

22. (Amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the calcining temperature is between 300 and 800°C.

23. (Amended) The process according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic sheet is a porous ceramic sheet.

24. (Amended) The process according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic sheet is made of silica-alumina.

25. (Amended) The process according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic sheet is heated to dry before aluminum is deposited.

26. (Amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein aluminum is deposited by vacuum deposition, electrochemical deposition or sputtering.

27. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the carbon compound is at least one member of the group consisting of saturated hydrocarbon compounds, unsaturated

hydrocarbon compounds, aromatic hydrocarbon compounds and oxygen-containing hydrocarbon compounds.

28. (Amended) The process according to claim 27, wherein the reaction temperature for the step of decomposing the carbon compound is between 400 and 1100°C.

Please add claims 29-31 as follows.

29. (New) The process according to claim 14, wherein the ceramic sheet is a porous ceramic sheet.

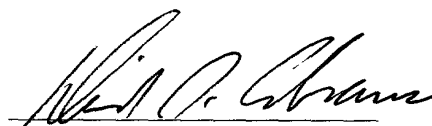
30. (New) The process according to claim 14, wherein the ceramic sheet is made of silica-alumina.

31. (New) The process according to claim 14, wherein the ceramic sheet is heated to dry before aluminum is deposited.

#### REMARKS

The above amendments eliminate multiple dependency in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



David S. Abrams  
Reg. No. 22,576

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.  
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202)659-9076

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**Marked-up Claims:**

13. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 1 - 12] claim 1, wherein the substrate is a ceramic sheet.

18. (Amended) The process according to claim 16 [or 17], wherein the base is ammonia or a water-soluble amine.

20. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 14 - 19] claim 14, wherein the cobalt compound which is loaded on the aluminum-coated ceramic sheet comprises particles with a size of 1 nm to 100 nm.

21. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 14 - 20] claim 14, wherein the cobalt compound is loaded by impregnation, dipping, a sol-gel process or a reverse micelle process.

22. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 14 - 21] claim 14, wherein the calcining temperature is between 300 and 800°C.

23. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 13 - 22] claim 13, wherein the ceramic sheet is a porous ceramic sheet.

24. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 13 - 23] claim 13, wherein the ceramic sheet is made of silica-alumina.

25. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 13 - 24] claim 13, wherein the ceramic sheet is heated to dry before aluminum is deposited.

26. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 14 - 25] claim 14, wherein aluminum is deposited by vacuum deposition, electrochemical deposition or sputtering.

27. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 1 - 26] claim 1, wherein the carbon compound is at least one member of the group consisting of saturated hydrocarbon compounds, unsaturated hydrocarbon compounds, aromatic hydrocarbon compounds and oxygen-containing hydrocarbon compounds.

28. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims 1 - 27] claim 27, wherein the reaction temperature for the step of decomposing the carbon compound is between 400 and 1100°C.